**Report Warns Of Severe Water Shortages By 2025  
If Global Consumption Continues**

VIENNA, Austria (AP) \_ More than 2.7 billion people will face severe shortages of fresh water by 2025 if the world keeps consuming water at today's rates, the United Nations warned Friday in a new report to mark World Water Day.

Worldwide, about 5 billion people will be living in areas where it will be difficult or impossible to meet all their needs for fresh water, creating ``a looming crisis that overshadows nearly two-thirds of the Earth's population,'' the report said.

It was released in Vienna by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a nuclear watchdog organization leading the United Nations' effort to draw attention to the world's water crisis and urge the launching of a ``blue revolution'' to conserve supplies and develop new ones.

``The simple fact is that there is a limited amount of water on the planet, and we cannot afford to be negligent in its use,'' said the IAEA's director, Mohamed ElBaradei. ``We can't keep treating it as if it will never run out.''

Already, an estimated 1.1 billion people have no access to safe drinking water, 2.5 billion lack proper sanitation and more than 5 million people die from waterborne diseases each year \_ 10 times the number of casualties killed in wars around the globe, the report said.

Less than 3 percent of the world's water is fresh, and most of it is trapped in polar ice or buried underground in springs too deep to reach, it said. Freshwater lakes, rivers and reservoirs may seem numerous but provide just a drop in the bucket, the report said.

``Even where supplies are sufficient or plentiful, they are increasingly at risk from pollution and rising demand,'' U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a statement, warning that ``fierce national competition over water resources has prompted fears that water issues contain the seeds of violent conflict.''

The worst-affected areas are the deserts and semiarid regions of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where fresh drinking water is extremely scarce, in part because of the region's wildly variable climate and unfettered population growth, the World Meteorological Organization said.

Water ministers from 22 African countries have called for a regional and global alliance, backed by international funding, to tackle water and sanitation problems. Among the solutions, they say, are the development of desalination facilities that can turn salt water into drinking water.

Millions of women trudge long distances every day in search of water or send their children to look for it, meaning they miss opportunities to work, grow crops and attend school, the U.N. report said.

``Without adequate clean water, there can be no escape from poverty,'' said Klaus Toepfer, director of the U.N. Environment Program. ``Water is the basis for good health and food production. Mankind is always at its mercy.''

Source: <http://www.waterday2002.iaea.org/>

# First things first in Haiti: clean water and sanitation

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[](http://connect.oregonlive.com/user/oliveoregedb/index.html)By [The Oregonian Editorial Board](http://connect.oregonlive.com/user/oliveoregedb/index.html) The Oregonian

[View full size](http://media.oregonlive.com/opinion_impact/photo/haitijpg-0a34b9ae1f938aca.jpg)Bruce Ely/The OregonianA volunteer with Medical Teams International at a clinic in Saint-Louis-du-Nord, Haiti, slowly pushes tiny amounts of hydrating solution into a tube running from Geslin Pierre's nose to her stomach. The 2-year-old girl, stricken by cholera, arrived dehydrated and close to death but survived.

How many more times can a widowed mother of three show up for her weekly allotment of undrinkable water and the chlorine pills to make it safe?   
  
Lucienne Henrius, who lost her husband in Haiti's earthquake nearly a year ago and lives in a tent city, surely isn't keeping count.   
  
She's doing what anyone in a survival situation would do: working, hour by hour, to beat the odds, this time against the tsunami of cholera that has claimed 2,500 Haitian lives. It took Henrius' unstinting care to keep her and her children off that list, and she can't relax now.   
  
Cholera and Haiti's imponderable problems aren't easing any time soon, and that fact calls for a reconsideration of the country's governance and destiny. Unless Haiti is secured as a place that can support life beyond mere survival, all the aid in the world won't help.   
  
As [The Oregonian's Kimberly A.C. Wilson and Bruce Ely](http://blog.oregonlive.com/news_impact/print.html?entry=/2010/12/haiti_almost_a_year_after_the.html) found in their recent trip to the Caribbean nation, things are worse today than right after the January earthquake that killed about 220,000 Haitians and sent more than 1 million scurrying for tarp shelters.   
  
That's after other countries pledged $5.3 billion in aid over two years, and after former President Bill Clinton spent much of 2010 leading, with Haiti's Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, the campaign to rebuild Haiti.   
  
Cholera, a Third World scourge linked to poor sanitation, now rampages through a country without enough toilets or infrastructure to contain or treat waste -- a rampage, Wilson reports, accelerated by up to 70 percent of Haiti's 9 million people having nothing like a toilet. Water, much of it unfit to drink, is delivered by truck in damaged zones, with chlorine pills dispensed with bullhorned instructions for their proper use. Portland's Mercy Corps, with 116 staffers on the ground in Haiti, has taken cholera prevention efforts to 75,000 Haitians and aims to reach another 150,000.   
  
National elections were held last month. Anticipated as Haiti's next step to self-determination and rebuilding, they were instead a farce of corruption, triggering widespread violence and, among many, deadening cynicism. A runoff election between two contested presidential candidates will be held in January.   
  
Talk of self-determination is useless when the challenge is survival.   
  
There can be no rebuilding of Haiti, and no restoration of its culture, without functioning infrastructure. Peru was able to contain a 1991 cholera outbreak after about 3,000 deaths in large part because it had a sanitary system to improve. Haiti's damaged urban centers not only lack the pipes to carry sewage and water, but roughly three-quarters of the country's 4,000 miles of surface roads are unpaved. Meanwhile, heaps of rubble from collapsed buildings continue to stymie passage in several areas.   
  
Nobody's at fault, really. Nearly $1 billion in aid has been spent, and total pledges for reconstruction over three years top $9 billion. Yet Haiti suffers in ways almost unique in the modern world while nobody, it seems, can get the place moving -- least of all outgoing President Rene Preval.   
  
The next time Lucienne Henrius shows up for her water allotment and chlorine, she deserves to know the situation will change.   
  
[The United Nations](http://www.un.org/), in concert with Clinton and the United States government, could help. Though it historically has helped maintain the peace on Haiti in times of unrest and championed the post-quake rebuilding cause, the U.N. exists to work with functional nations -- and Haiti isn't one. The U.N. and select nations would perform Haiti a great service now by publicly acknowledging what Haiti is right now -- a broken place with broken dreams -- and focusing on immediate infrastructure installations.   
  
Rebuilding can wait. Self-determination can wait. Clean water and proper sanitation -- and the basic human health and dignities attending them -- must not. Haiti, like Lucienne Henrius, can rise proudly once it's done surviving.

<http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2010/12/first_things_first_in_haiti_cl.htm>

# People face severe water crisis in Ranchi

2010-12-25 21:30:00

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| |  | | --- | | People in Ranchi are facing severe water crisis due to the bad climatic condition and drought like situation in the region.  Nitish Priyadarshi, an environmentalist, said that due to continuous drought from the past two years and shortage of water in the dams the water crisis has surfaced in the region.  "There is continuous drought from last two years. Last year also there was no rain and this year too. Due to that there was no storage of water in dams and this situation has occurred after almost forty years. The water level has never gone so down," said Priyadarshi.  "So, we are trying to figure out what we can do with water crisis; three days water supply in a week and we will see further what will be the situation. Accordingly we will act," he added.  Extensive deforestation, urbanisation and industrialisation have led to scanty rainfall because of which the water level of the region has gone down over the years.  Ramprit Yadav, a resident, said if people would get water once in three days, they would be forced to die.  "We are facing lot of trouble because of water crisis. There is a small tap for water supply and the population of this area is around ten thousand. We get water by filling our vessels from here. Now, we are getting water once in four to three days," said Yadav.  "In big colonies people have water tanks in which they store water but here we fill water in the morning then consume it in the evening," he added. (ANI) | |

<http://www.sify.com/news/people-face-severe-water-crisis-in-ranchi-news-national-kmzv4ceidga.html>

# Kampala water crisis intensifies

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By Andrew Bagala & Joseph Miti   
Posted  Wednesday, December 22 2010 at 00:00

**Kampala**

Business came to the standstill in Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso districts yesterday after National Water and Sewage Corporation (NWSC) failed, for the third day, to supply water to the dwellers.

Residents of the three districts had to fetch water from allegedly contaminated spring wells which are kilometres away from their homes. Officials at NWSC attribute the water shortage to the collapse of power lines in Muyenga but others put it on the stressed network due to the high number of consumers. “The population has grown so fast and sometimes the water supply system is stressed. We need money to work on the system,” Ms Mariam Kadaga, the spokesperson at NWSC, said yesterday.

Dr William Muhairwe, the NW&SC managing director, said the new water shortage was caused by a power outage. “We lost power at 7 o’clock on Monday so our pumps at Ggaba I, II, III couldn’t function. Power was restored 18 hours later which means we need another 18 hours to feed the whole network,” he said. Asked why they do not use generators, he said their consumption of power is too high and purchasing generators would not be viable. “The public shouldn’t panic. By Wednesday morning the network will have water,” he said.

In Ntinda, police officers from Ntinda Barracks had to fetch water from a spring well that neighbours Crest Foam before going to work. “We are carrying jerrycans for two miles, something I last did while I was in the village,” Mr Ignatius Nuwamanya, a relative of a police officer living in Ntinda Police Barracks, said.

Ms Ritah Sanyu, a resident of Kasubi, said the price of a 20-litre jerrycan of water had gone up from Shs100 to between shs300 and Shs500. “I use five jerrycans daily which means I spend Shs2,500 on water alone,” she said. Mr William Mayambala, a resident of Kawaala, said children and women were forced to wake up as early as 5am to look for water and retire as late as 10pm.

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1076674/-/cjwu0sz/-/>